

Poetry.

DO IT.

[SELECTED BY H. R. H.]

If you have a task to do, lad, do it,
Do not dally half a day; get through it.
Do not mix your work with play,
Do not loiter by the way,
Go and do it right away, lad—do it.

If a lesson you should learn, then learn it,
If the grindstone you must turn, then turn it.
Strike out boldly like a man;
'Tis by far the better plan
Do the very best you can, lad—do it.

If the garden you must till, then till it,
If the woodbox you should fill, then fill it.
Though the task be not so fine,
Do not fret or mope or whine,
Do your duty, line on line, lad—do it.

Should the wood pile need your strength and muscle,

Get your coat off with a lively hustle,
Every stick that you shall split
Is a tribute to your grit,
And will harm you not a whit; then do it.

Never mind if your task seems lowly,
Never mind if your reward comes slowly,
Keep your conscience clean and white,
Keep your courage strong and bright,
And you'll surely win the fight; then do it.

If you're good for any thing you'll show it,
Never fear but that the world will know it,
Just pursue your quiet way,
Make the best of every day,
Do your duty while you may, lad—do it.

—Aunt Ruth.

Contributions.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE MOST PROFITABLY.

[A Symposium by J. M. Bowman, C. F. Yoder, J. L. Gillin, J. F. Koontz, J. B. Wampler, and D. C. Moomaw.]

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE.—NO. 1.

There are many reasons given why the Bible should be studied aside from the duty of it. In fact I am persuaded that the duty is far from being the best reason so far as good results are concerned.

Dr. Harper, in September 1895 number of the Biblical World says that there are thousands of teachers needed for the work of Bible instruction which must be done in the churches if christianity is to grow and prevail. He makes the growth and power of christianity to depend upon Bible study and instruction. He says too that the condition of things in most of the churches as to Bible teaching is appalling.

Paul says II Tim. 3: 15, 16, 17: "The Holy Scriptures are able to make thee wise unto salvation, profitable for instruction in righteousness, and to furnish for work."

In Heb. 1: 1 we are told that God hath

spoken. Surely in this age in which it is considered highly important that persons be well informed and give much time to the gathering of knowledge and instruction from human sources and human teachers, it will not be thought a waste of time to seek to know what God has said. In fact it is the best of good sense to do so.

We hope to do much toward arousing an interest in the study of the Bible at the Conference which was announced by Brother Miller in the EVANGELIST. Individuals cannot do better than give the time and money it will require to be in this meeting. Churches can well afford to send S. S. superintendents and teachers to bring back the inspiration and help to the church. K. C. workers will find much help. In fact it will be good for all sorts of Christian workers. Preachers especially can gather a good harvest.

J. M. BOWMAN.

BOOK STUDY.—NO. 2.

I am confident that the time and energy I have used in earnest painstaking Bible study has yielded richer harvests than I could have gathered in any other way.

The question "Will it pay to study the Bible?" finds no longer a place in my list of perplexities. It does pay the best returns in the very best coin of the universe.

The best way to receive the benefits of Bible study is to study the Bible, not a history of the Bible, nor a geography of the Bible, nor any or all of the books and opinions concerning the Bible, but the Bible first, last and all the time must have the students first and deepest love and confidence. Most Christian professors, and especially preachers honor the Bible with their mouths, but of an awful host of them it can be truthfully said "Their hearts are far from it."

There is no one best way to reap all of the profit of Bible study. There are several methods which are equally good and must all have their share of attention. But now I wish to give some hints concerning a method which has proven very fruitful to me. It is the book method.

I am indebted in a very great measure to Prof. W. W. White and R. A. Torrey of the Moody Institute, Chicago, for much of the method, but know for myself that it yields rich profit for one's work.

In this method, take for example I Thessalonians. Read the book through many times. Expect some first impressions and note them. For me it was like visiting a country as yet all unexplored, and the discoveries proved to be just as thrilling and happy, as e. g. they were

known to be the elect or chosen of God by the way they received the Gospel. "The Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power." 1: 15. "When ye received the Word of God, . . . ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh in you." I Thess. 2: 13. And several others which hold their freshness wonderfully.

Note differences in translation in A. V. and R. V.

I have cards with various headings, Under "Who wrote" I have eleven points noted. All found in the book itself. "To whom written," sixteen; "When written" six from the book, two from Acts, and one from some other source; "Where written," one from Acts; "Immediate occasion for writing," four points; "Purpose," seven; "Circumstances of the Author," ten; "Circumstances of those to whom he wrote," fifteen; "Glimpses into the life and character of the Author," eleven. "Paul was as gentle as a nurse," I Thess. 2: 7, and "Ready to give his life for their good." I Thess. 2: 8. These are two of the points noted under this head. Then follows "Outline and contents" and then the chapter and verse and word study. Now it takes more time to do all of this than to tell it, but the profit and pleasure of it all can not be told. Try it; try it and see.

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HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE.—NO. 3.

God's truth is "power unto salvation." How to get it into the hearts and lives of the masses has ever been the problem before the Christian church. Ignorance of it is to-day as in the dark ages the mother of bigotry and tyranny.

We praise the Father for a land of Bibles and religious liberty, but in the midst of this light and liberty there is a shameful amount of the densest ignorance concerning this book of books. A college student once asked me if Christ did not write the whole Bible! A college professor in Pennsylvania submitted to his class a large number of quotations from Tennyson containing references to leading Bible incidents and they could not explain the half of them.

On the other hand there never have been so many people reading the Bible as now. An authority has stated that more Bibles have been sold within the past fifty years than during all the preceding centuries.

Translated into over 300 languages, supplied with concordance, subject index, maps, tables and helps of all kinds are of-